

June 8, 2015

Rock Island VFD receives grant to replace pumper

ROCK ISLAND, Texas — Rock Island Volunteer Fire Department recently received a \$200,000 to go towards the purchase of a new tanker through a grant from Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural VFD Assistance Program.

"We needed a new tanker to replace our 1993 model pumper," Fire Chief Patrick Smith said. "We didn't have the excess funds to purchase one, but our department was in need of an upgrade."

The pumper that the department replaced did not have the water carrying capacity that the department needed for the 2,600 people it serves in an area of 50 square miles.

"The new tanker has the capacity to carry 2,000 gallons of water in a polymer tank that is resistant to rust," Smith said.

In addition to the tanker's ability to pump 750 gallons of water per minute, it has designated space for ladder storage and a dump tank.

Over 85 percent of fire departments in Texas are either completely or mostly operated by volunteers. TFS passes approximately \$12.8 million along to volunteer fire departments across the state each year, helping them purchase equipment to better protect lives and property.

"TFS's Rural VFD Assistance Program is great," Smith said. "Smaller department's like ours put value in the financial aid it provides."

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.



Judy Taylor, FD Secretary and Jeremy Wagner, TFS, RFC